



# *Bass Strait Game Fishing Club Inc.*

Meetings Held on the 2nd Tuesday of Every Month at the  
Western Port Angling Club Rooms, Hastings Boat Ramp  
New Members Welcome

The Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

The Bass Strait Game Fishing Club is strongly opposed to the impending ban on the take of Shortfin Mako Sharks under the Convention of Migratory Species.

Bass Strait Game Fishing Club is based in Hastings, Victoria with an active membership of 90, recreationally fish for several species with Makos being the most popular and the most prolific in our local area.

Bass Strait Game Fishing Club is affiliated with the Game Fishing Association of Victoria, Game Fishing Association of Australia and the International Game Fishing Association. Through the GFAA, we have for many years been involved in Tag and Release, utilizing the NSW Fisheries tag and release program, aiding to information used to manage the species in a responsible manner. With such a program in place we encourage anglers to act responsibly, treat the fish correctly prior to their release and take only what they need, as they are a fine eating seafood.

Our club has also been involved in the satellite tracking tags, one of our vessels provided to Paul Rogers of the South Australian Research and Development Institute at no cost, the time and effort to place a sat. tag in a Mako off the South Australian Coast. Since last May that fish is one of several transmitting information constantly. Again helping get more information to manage the species as best as possible.

Our club has also been preparing a submission for funding to put 12 more of these tags in over a 3 year period within our local area. Through these programs and all the science our Association has been able to muster, it is clear the stocks in the Southern Hemisphere are not linked to the situation

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in the Northern Hemisphere in particular the Mediterranean Sea where the stats were the basis of the inclusion of the species within the Convention of Migratory Species.

Here we would like a second appendices included in our EPBC Act to allow for the species to be managed in a manner to suit our fishery in the South Pacific region.

The current management in place by DPI Victoria works well and we support it.

The recreational fishing industry in Victoria was recently valued at \$2.3 billion dollars annually, with Game Fishing estimated to be worth in excess of \$100 million dollars per annum.

If the ban on the take of Mako Sharks is implemented the Bass Strait Game Fishing Club would most likely suffer to the point of questionable viability, our governing body GFAV would also suffer greatly. Our members are very passionate about this issue, particularly with the lack of consultation, no economic effects study done prior and total lack of science to show the reason for such a drastic stance by the Government, to take on a species which science shows stocks are healthy and not at all threatened by the current fishing pressure.

Such an action to enforce this ban is not required. We call on the Government to delay and decisions of this nature so our Associations can provide comment and science to show recreational fishing for Shortfin Mako Sharks in Australia in sustainable.

Thank You for your consideration

Daron Proudlock  
President  
Bass Strait Game Fishing Club